

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner stated that Applicant has not file a certified copy of the Japan 2002-072694 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). Applicant notes that the present application is a PCT based application, which was filed on March 13, 2003. As required certified copies of both priority documents were filed with the PCT application and can be viewed electronically at the WIPO web site at the following link: <http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/search-adv.jsp>. Further, according to the PCT rules, the International Bureau is responsible for forwarding the certified copies to the designated states.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/05611 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,808,224 to Obara).

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 and is, thus, in condition for allowance.

The Examiner allowed claim 8. Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claim 8.

The Examiner objected to claims 3-7 and 9-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form including all the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and are, thus, in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7 depend from allowable claim 4 and are, thus, in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 and is, thus, in condition for allowance.

Claims 10 and 12-15 depend either directly or indirectly on allowable claim 9 and are, thus, in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SHM-15463.

Respectfully submitted,

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